

**NMFS Office of Protected Species**  
**Review of long beaked common dolphin USE in San Diego County, CA**  
**November 15, 2017**

NMFS completed its review of the Uncommon Stranding Event (USE) of four long-beaked common dolphin strandings reported to NOAA Fisheries and the California Stranding Network between May 15-17, 2017. Based on the information available, NMFS determined the events do not warrant modifications to the Letters of Authorization for the U.S Navy's Hawaii Southern California Training and Testing (HSTT) under 50 CFR 218.78 (c)(1) or notice and comment on procedures under 50 CFR 216.106(e) or 50 CFR 218.78(c)(1)(ii).

On May 15, 2017, NOAA's Southwest Fisheries Science Center responded to a live stranded long-beaked common dolphin (*Delphinus capensis*) in Oceanside, California. Upon arrival the animal was found fresh dead and both CT/MRI imaging and necropsy were performed. Findings from these analyses include a high level of domoic acid, chronic bone fractures, and a few acute medical conditions.

Also on May 15, 2017, NOAA's Southwest Fisheries Science Center responded to a live stranded *D. capensis* on Torrey Pines State Beach, California. Upon arrival the animal was found dead and a necropsy was performed. Findings from the necropsy include a high level of domoic acid, emaciation, bacterial infection and mild encephalitis.

On May 16, 2017, Sea World Rescue responded to a dead stranded *D. capensis* on Beacons Beach, California, and a necropsy was performed. Findings from the necropsy include a low domoic acid concentration, and a positive Brucella test. Histology results are still pending. If histology results indicate a cause of death or stranding different from what is already reported, we will update this published report.

On May 17, 2017, NOAA's Southwest Fisheries Science Center responded to a dead stranded *D. capensis* in Camp Pendleton, California. The animal was found in a state of advanced decomposition, but samples were collected. A low concentration of domoic acid was detected from feces.

The available information from each animal does not support a causal connection between the Navy's HSTT training or testing and any of these four dolphin strandings. Therefore, NMFS concludes that none of these strandings warrant any actions pursuant to 50 CFR 216.106(e) or 50 CFR 218.78(c).